was taken for opening the above centres, the number of centres opened, the number of grievances heard in the above centres for the last three years; year-wise and country-wise; and

(c) if not, the reasons for the delay and the steps being taken to open Pravasi Centres?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) to (c) Allocation of work to the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs (MOIA) was notified on 15th December, 2004. Entry No.(F) 8 of the Government of India (Allocation of Business) (278th Amendment) Rules 2004 reads. "Setting up and administering of Centres for Overseas Indians' Affairs in countries having major concentration of Overseas Indians in consultation and coordination with the Ministry of External Affairs". A proposal to establish Overseas Centres is under examination in consultation with the Ministry of External Affairs and the Ministry of Finance. They are expected to be established at the earliest.

Humiliation of wives of NRI husbands

459. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to have a policy to protect the interest of wives who have been deserted or being humiliated by their NRI husbands;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government have invited any suggestions from the States in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) to (c) The Government is taking measures to educate parents as well as prospective brides and to create awareness on this issue. The measures include publishing a guidance booklet on marriages to overseas Indians. The other measures under consideration are establishing overseas Indian centres in select locations with high overseas Indian population, setting up a gender advisory group to advise on gender issues related to the diaspora

and support helplines to assist those in need.

(d) and (e) MOIA had invited suggestions from the States in which this problem is acute for improving the guidance booklet. A national consultation was also held on 18th February, 2006 to which States in which the problem is acute were invited and their views on the issue were noted.

People going to Gulf and other countries

460. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of new guidelines for clearance of those persons going to gulf and other countries for work;

(b) whether those guidelines have been found tough and people find it difficult to get emigration clearance;

(c) if so, whether it is proposed to amend the guidelines;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) The procedure of grant of emigration clearance is contained in Rules 15 and 16 of the Emigration Rules, 1983 and guidelines issued from time to time. No new guidelines has been issued in this regard.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Application for dual citizenship

†461. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications from Non-Resident Indians for dual citizenship that have been received, so far;

(b) the names of countries from where these applications have been received mainly; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.